SHRI R. MARGABANDHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether India will become self-sufficient in the production of petroleum products at any point of time.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is difficult to say whether we will achieve self-sufficiency, in the production of petroleum products. It depends upon our luck. I hope that sometimes God will be kind to us.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Mr. Chairman Sir, on this petroleum issue I have two specific questions to put. One is that until very recently quite a substantial part of India's crude production was produced within the country. Now, I find that there has been a slackening in our investment towards oil exploration. The reason is political because if you explore for oil, it takes about- 5 to 6 years and then to refine and develop it, it takes another 5 to 6 years. So, it takes about 10 years before you come to viable production or near that. As you know, elections are held every five years, sometimes Governments are changed within one year, the Government is not interested in making necessary investment in oil exploration because they do not get any benefit. They themselves do not know what will happen after 10 years. But I think there is a need for the Prime Minister to look into it. There is a need to reach a political consensus that oil exploration will be given a high priority to make India self-sufficient. Our prospective oil-bearing area is vast, of which a small fringe has been explored so far in the offshores of Assam, Gujarat. But there are many other areas in the country which are oil bearing and which have not been explored so far. Thank you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, bearing all these things in mind, this year we are having a plan outlay of Rs. 11,000 crores. As far as refineries are concerned, we will become self-sufficient by the turn of the century. Our demand is expected to be around 113 tonnes and the production will be 130 million tonnes. By the turn of the century, our refineries capacity and the availability of pertoleum products will be self-sufficient.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJMKUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my supplementary is not relevant to this question, but it is relevant to the country. Sir, both the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Petroleum Minister are present. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to increase the price of petrol.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over, on a note cf irrelevancy. Now, statement by minister correcting answer to • question. Dr,, Venkateswarlu. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. Zero Hour has not yet come. Dr. Venkateswarlu.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Changes in Delhi Rent Control Act

*562. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has received a detailed note from the Home Ministry regarding the changes contemplated in Delhi Rent Control Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has received a note from the Ministry of Home Affairs wherein their views on the proposed amendments to the Delhi Rent Act have been expressed.

(b) and (c) This matter is to be considered and decided by the Cabinet and only then it will be placed before the Parliament. It is, therefore, not possible to furnish details of the note at this stage.

The note is, however, under examination of the Government.

Review of Performance of NABARD

*563. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a review of the performance of NABARD activities during the last three years in various States in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of State-wise deficiencies observed in the implementation of projects and steps taken to strengthen monitoring arrangement and broad-base activities, interim of new policy thrust of Government;

(d) the action plan worked out/finalised for implementation during 1997-98 with tentative State-wise break-up of outlays likely to be available; and

(e) the details of projects, with locations, recently cleared in Maharashtra as also the projects awaiting clearance/approved by NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) While the activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are monitored by Government on an on-going basis, an indepth review of its operations is conducted by its Board of Directors which comprises amongst others, of senior representatives from the Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development Ministries and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The activities of NABARD are also reviewed by the Central Board of Directors of RBI every year. An annual review of the bank's activities is also tabled in Parliament alongv/hh the annual report of NABARD.

As regards assessment of the performance of NABARD, in the case of its credit-related functions, achievements under investment credit and production credit are analysed in relation to quantified targets, while the assessment of performance in relation to institutional development and promotional functions is made in qualitative terms. The State/ Union Territory-wise targets and achievements for the last three years, under investment credit operations of NABARD are given at *Annexure.* The State/Union Territory-wise details of short-term credit provided by NABARD to State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the last three years are shown at *Annexure.* The details of number of projects sanctioned and loans disbursed to different State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) I *&*. II are at *Annexure. [See* Appendix 180, Annexure No. 89]

NABARD has a well structured monitoring arrangement covering, inter-alia, district oriented monitoring, technical monitoring, scheme-oriented monitoring, mid-term review of implementation of schemes and ex-post evaluation of schemes. It has, however taken a number of steps to further strengthen its monitoring arrangements. These include, inter-alia, appointment of technical consultants for projects, setting up of special project monitoring cells at Regional Officers (ROS) as well as field level monitoring. State level deficiencies and implementation difficulties are also reviewed at the State Level Bankers' Committee meetings where State Governments, commercial banks, RBI and NABARD are represented. Further NABARD also holds structured discussions with the line departments of the State Governments, wherever considered necessary, to resolve outstanding issues.

NABARD's Business Development Plan (BDP) for the year 1997-98, inter-alia, envisages flow of refinance under investment credit to participating banks to an extent of Rs. 3716 crores as against achievement of Rs. 3523 crores for the